

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2006. New claim 18 has been added. Thus, claims 1, 5, 14, and 16-18 are now pending.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Rebstock (U.S. Patent No. 134,931 issued January 14, 1873). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires “an *air vent that serves* as a passage for the *liquid resin* and through which *air within the cavity* and the resin inlet can be released to an exterior space of the resin molding die.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 illustrates an air vent 12 that serves as a passage for liquid resin and through which air within the cavity 13 and the resin inlet 11 can be released to an exterior space. For purposes of example and without limitation, because the air vent is provided in a resin molding die for the molding process, it becomes possible to inject a resin into the molding die via low-pressure injection (e.g., pg. 14, lines 6-22) without allowing significant resin sink, wire breakage, or flash formation (e.g., pg. 10, lines 1-12).

Rebstock fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid italicized features of claim 1. Rebstock discloses a method for casting metallic knobs. In particular, Rebstock discloses an upper part mold B and a lower part mold A, where the upper mold B is made in two parts (col. 2, lines 26-28 of Rebstock). Rebstock also discloses that T is the sprue, where the metal is poured in; UU are gate passages by which the metal is conveyed to the ring E into the mold (col. 2, lines 14-17).

However, Rebstock fails to disclose or suggest “an *air vent that serves* as a passage for the *liquid resin* and through which *air within the cavity* and the resin inlet can be released to an

exterior space of the resin molding die” as required by claim 1. Nowhere in Rebstock is there any disclosure with respect to an air vent, and the Office Action does not even state what portion of Rebstock is allegedly the claimed air vent.

Furthermore, according to Rebstock, melted metal is poured through the sprue T, and both U U as shown in Fig. 1 are gate passages by which the melted metal is conveyed to the ring E in the mold. None of these is “an *air vent that serves* as a passage for the *liquid resin* and through which *air within the cavity* and the resin inlet can be released to an exterior space of the resin molding die” as required by claim 1.

Still further, while applicant disagrees with the Examiner concerning the allegation of intended use, even if the mold of Rebstock were used to mold resin (which it is not), Rebstock still fails to disclose or suggest an air vent that serves as a passage for liquid resin and through which air within the cavity can be released to an exterior space. This is because if resin is poured through the sprue T in Rebstock, the resin would flow through both passages U U into the mold; and air within the cavity would not be able to be released through either one the passages U U to an exterior space. Thus, again, Rebstock fails to meet the invention of claim 1 in this regard.

Claim 18

Claim 18 requires that “*the resin inlet and the air vent are spaced apart and do not communicate with each other at a top portion of the upper die.*” Rebstock fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 18. In particular, in Rebstock the alleged resin inlet V and the alleged air vent (the other V) *meet* at T at the top of the alleged upper die which is the opposite of what claim 18 requires. Thus, Rebstock not only fails to disclose or suggest claim 18, but also teaches directly away from the same.

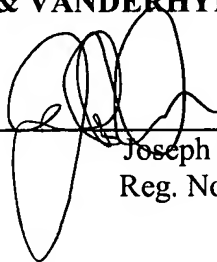
Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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